

## TWO WEEKS NOTICE: A LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS BLOG

### ABOUT ME

Greg Weeks

I am Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. I am also the editor of the academic journal The Latin Americanist.

[View my complete profile](#)

### I Recommend

 **Irresistible Force: Latin American Migration to the United States** by Gregory B. Weeks

### SEARCH

### LABELS

Academia (203)  
Academic Article (66)  
Argentina (50)  
Autism (4)  
Baseball (100)  
blog (1)  
Blogs (63)  
Blogs; Paraguay (1)  
Bolivia (78)  
Book Review (176)  
Brazil (87)  
Central America (1)  
Charlotte (63)  
Charlotte; Autism (1)  
Chile (317)  
China (24)  
Colombia (208)  
Costa Rica (7)  
Cuba (270)  
Dominican Republic (3)  
Ecuador (81)  
El Salvador (30)  
Family (13)  
Guatemala (20)  
Haiti (9)  
Honduras (228)  
Immigration (612)  
Latin America (341)  
Latino; North Carolina (1)  
Latinos (64)  
Latinos; Charlotte; North Carolina (2)  
Mexico (183)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2014

### Migration and Proxies in Central America

Jonathan Hiskey, Mary Malone, and Diana Orcés, "Violence and Migration in Central America." [AmericasBarometer Insights n. 101](#) (2014).


Abstract:

Over the past decade, much of Central America has been devastated by alarming increases in crime and violence. For most of this timeframe, migration from many of these same countries to the United States increased as well, at least until the 2008 financial crisis deflated migration numbers. In the following Insights report, we examine the possible relationship between high levels of violence and Central Americans' migration intentions. Though conventional views of the motivations behind migration tend to highlight economic and familial factors as the principal causes of migration, we find that crime victimization and perceptions of insecurity among Central Americans also play a significant role in determining the extent to which an individual considers migration as a viable strategy. Nonetheless, in the face of consistently high levels of crime and violence, perceptions of insecurity among Central Americans over the past ten years have been declining, suggesting perhaps a populace that has become accustomed to a high crime context and thus one less inclined to let crime influence future migration patterns.

These findings are consistent both with the previous literature and with anecdotal evidence (and, really, common sense). However, there is an interesting measurement question.

The powerful effect that receiving remittances has on the probability of planning to migrate, along with the age and gender profile of the likely migrant, all suggest that our dependent variable, migration intentions, serves as an adequate proxy for migration itself, despite not measuring actual behavior.

The *AmericasBarometer* data is survey data, so does not measure migration, only a question about *intent* to migrate. Why, I wonder, not include migration data? The simple answer may just be that this type of short research note isn't intended to do so; rather, it is intended to highlight ways to use *AmericasBarometer* data. Nonetheless, I need a bit more convincing about how intent to migrate is a good proxy for migrating.

Posted by Greg Weeks at 9:38 AM   
Labels: Central America, Immigration

0 COMMENTS:

### Tweets

[Follow](#)

-  **Greg Weeks** @GregWeeksUNCC 19m  
blog: criticizing Human Rights Watch [weeksnotice.blogspot.com/2014/02/critic...](http://weeksnotice.blogspot.com/2014/02/critic...)  
[Expand](#)
-  **Greg Weeks** @GregWeeksUNCC 1h  
weird and a little creepy!  
[businessinsider.com/wellesley-coll...](http://businessinsider.com/wellesley-coll...)  
[Show Summary](#)
-  **Mike Allison** @CentAmPolMike 2h  
[@GregWeeksUNCC](#) [@raulegallegos](#) [@BloombergView](#) But had election been in US, Mex, Hond, Nica, Costa Rica we'd be talking FMLN landslide victory  
Retweeted by Greg Weeks  
[Expand](#)
-  **Greg Weeks** @GregWeeksUNCC 2h  
RT [@raulegallegos](#): #ElSalvador's Cold War generation is out of ideas [bloom.bg/Ms28Od](http://bloom.bg/Ms28Od) via [@BloombergView](#)  
[Show Summary](#)
-  **Kristina Drye** @KristinaDrye 6h  
[@GregWeeksUNCC](#) it's all mathematics and taking AP and Honors classes vs C/P ones- it's such a strategy game now.  
[Retweeted by Greg Weeks](#)

### POPULAR POSTS

- Che Guevara's Three One Dimensions  
Che Guevara ranks up there as one of the most one-dimensional figures in Latin American political history. Most recently Ileana Ros-Lehtinen...
- Otto Pérez Molina and legalization  
The fact that Otto Pérez Molina proposed legalizing drugs is notable for several reasons. First, it bucks all assumptions, including mine...
- Cubans and LASA  
The State Department is allowing Mariela Castro to visit the U.S., in part to attend the Latin American Studies Association conference next...
- Gerson Dissing Political Science  
Michael Gerson has an opinion piece that begins by attacking Nate Silver and ends by attacking political science. The thrust of his argumen...
- Joffe's The Myth of America's Decline  
I read Josef Joffe's The Myth of America's Decline , in large part because it intersected with my view of U.S. policy toward Latin A...

### BLOG ARCHIVE

- ▼ 2014 (38)  
► February (7)